

# Councilman Panico Seeks To Reform Brookhaven Town Bingo Inspector Selection Process

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## Joins with Council Members Mazzei and Bonner to Reform the Process

**Farmingville, NY** - On Thursday, December 16th, Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico joined with Councilman Timothy Mazzei and Councilwomen Bonner to reform the process of selecting Brookhaven Town Bingo Inspectors.

The reform measures in the proposed resolution vest the appointment authority with the elected Town Board. Additionally, the resolution calls for a geographic balance of appointment. This is achieved by having the composition of bingo inspectors be one from each council district and a head inspector to be selected at-large by the Town Board. The current system of selection under the town code is legally and practically inadequate, leaving the potential for problems to arise.

"As the sponsor of this resolution, I take seriously the responsibilities of our bingo inspectors and the role the Town government performs in terms of regulating games of chance and wagering," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "Accordingly, this resolution provides for greater transparency and accountability by vesting the appointment authority with the elected Town Board. It further provides for a geographic balance, fulfilling yet another promise of the council district system of government. Under this resolution the old system of back room patronage is replaced with a more accountable system whereby these appointments will be formally submitted by resolution at each of the yearly Town organizational meetings. I am currently researching the feasibility of adopting future minimum qualifications, modeled after Suffolk County Civil Service's bingo inspector job description that lists a law enforcement background as a potential minimum qualification."

"I am pleased to co-sponsor this resolution with my colleagues, whom like me, put an emphasis on good government and transparency," commented Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner. "When it comes to gaming that involves the exchange of money, like bingo and other games of chance, a heightened level of scrutiny is needed and this resolution does just that."

"As a member of the Brookhaven Town Board that years ago professionalized the qualifications of officials put forward for appointment, I wholeheartedly support this resolution and think it instills a greater level of public confidence in the people's government. This is a needed reform, especially when you consider the fact that these officials oversee the exchange of money and inspect games of chance, wagering and bingo operations," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Timothy Mazzei.

The resolution was introduced at the regularly scheduled Town Board work session on Thursday, December 16th and will be voted upon at the Town Board meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2010.

### **Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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